

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MBABAN 01157 061351Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 IO-13 INR-10 VO-05 CA-01 L-03
SS-15 H-01 EUR-12 /076 W
-----017580 061423Z /42

P R 061000Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4397
INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MBABANE 1157

STADIS////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF, SHUM, WZ, MZ
SUBJECT: MOZAMBICAN REFUGEES DETAINED IN SWAZILAND

REF: MBABANE 1150

1. WITH SOME PUZZLEMENT, UNHCR REP SABITI REPORTED TO ME AFTER HIS APRIL 6 MEETING WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ZONKE KHUMALO THAT DPM HAD BEEN ALL SWEETNESS AND LIGHT AND HAD MADE NO REFERENCE TO PREVIOUS DAY'S TALK WITH ME OR EVEN MENTIONED SUBJECT OF MOZAMBICANS. SABITI THINKS DPM MAY HAVE REFLECTED OVER THE NIGHT AND DECIDED HE HAD GONE TOO FAR IN TALK WITH ME.

2. SABITI SAID DPM RAISED ONLY TWO TOPICS WITH HIM. FIRST WAS A REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR CONSTRUCTION OF MPAKA REFUGEE COMPLEX. SABITI REPLIED THAT COSTS SEEMED TO BE SPIRALING AND COULD POSSIBLY TURN OUT TO BE DOUBLE THE AMOUNT THAT UNHCR HAD BEEN ALERTED TO EARLIER BY DPM'S OFFICE. SABITI SAID HE UNABLE TO DO ANYTHING ON APPEALS IN ANY EVENT UNTIL HE RECEIVED FURTHER
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GOS DOCUMENTATION.

3. SECOND SUBJECT WAS WARNING TO SABITI TO AVOID DEALINGS WITH LIBERATION MOVEMENTS "BECAUSE WE WANT TO AVOID TROUBLE IN SWAZILAND." SABITI REPLIED (A) THAT DPM'S STAFF KNEW IT WAS NECESSARY FOR SABITI TO CONTACT LOCAL PAC REPS TO ARRANGE FOR THEIR ADHERENTS'

ONWARD TRAVEL OUT OF SWAZILAND, AND (B) DPM'S STAFF WAS INFORMED OF EACH SUCH CONTACT. DPM THEN DROPPED MATTER.

4. EMBASSY VIEWS REFTTEL DEVELOPMENTS AS MULTI-FACETED ISSUE: (A) WE SHOULD CONTINUE TO DO WHAT WE APPROPRIATELY CAN TO GET AT LEAST THE NON-MILITARY MOZAMBICANS OUT OF JAIL, (B) WE SHOULD SEE WHETHER GOS WILLING REVIEW MILITARY MOZAMBICAN CASES ON MAN-BY-MAN BASIS TO GET LIBERALIZED TREATMENT FOR AS MANY AS POSSIBLE, AND (C) WE SHOULD KEEP REMINDING GOS THAT OUTSIDERS (INCLUDING USG IN DONOR CAPACITY) ARE WATCHING THESE AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS. SABITI AGREES WITH ME THAT PRIME MINISTER WOULD AT LEAST LISTEN TO A PRESENTATION ON THIS ISSUE, AS COMPARED TO BOMBASTIC DPM, AND COULD POSSIBLY RPT POSSIBLY BE PERSUADED TO TAKE Milder APPROACH ON JAILINGS. (ALTHOUGH DPM HAS REFUGEE PORTFOLIO, PRIME MINISTER HAS POLICE, DEFENSE, AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS PORTFOLIOS)

5. I AM PREPARED MEET WITH PRIME MINISTER; WE HAD HAD LONG AND AGREEABLE CONVERSATION ON AID MATTERS IN MORNING OF APRIL 5. HOWEVER, BELIEVE DPM WOULD REGARD MY EARLY APPROACH TO PRIME MINISTER ON THIS SUBJECT AS PERSONAL AFFRONT, WHICH WOULD NOT SERVE LONG-TERM USG INTERESTS. THEREFORE BELIEVE TACTICALLY PREFERABLE FOR NEXT APPROACH
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TO BE AMBASSADOR'S CALL ON PRIME MINISTER FOR TOUR D' HORIZON THAT WOULD INCLUDE THIS SUBJECT. FYI, PRIME MINISTER TOLD ME HE WAS LEAVING ABOUT APRIL 15 FOR TEN DAYS IN EUROPE, FIVE DAYS OF WHICH ARE FOR MEDICAL CHECKUP ON INJURED ARM. HE SHOULD THEREFORE BE BACK WHEN AMBASSADOR NEXT VISITS MBABANE. END FYI.

6. UNLESS OTHERWISE INFORMED, WE WILL FOLLOW PLAN PROPOSED PARA 5 ABOVE. BEST IMMEDIATE SOLUTION STILL SEEMS TO BE PORTUGAL'S ADMISSION OF JAILED REFUGEES (PARA 2 MBABANE 1032).
WACHOB

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, DETENTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MBABAN01157
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780148-1192
Format: TEL
From: MBABANE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780486/aaaacuwl.tel
Line Count: 107
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4a8f5cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY, STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY, STADIS
Reference: 78 MBABANE 1150
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3055769
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MOZAMBICAN REFUGEES DETAINED IN SWAZILAND
TAGS: SREF, SHUM, WZ, MZ
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4a8f5cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014